

PSEUDOCERCOSPORA LEAF SPOT OF *FEIJOA*¹

N. E. El-Gholl², T. S. Schubert², and S. A. Alfieri, Jr.³

Feijoa sellowiana O. Berg., commonly known as pineapple guava, is an evergreen shrub or small tree in the family Myrtaceae. It is native to South America and is widely cultivated in the subtropics and warm temperate areas, including the southern and southwestern United States (3). It is a popular flowering woody ornamental in the United States. The fruits are edible (3).

CAUSAL AGENT: Since 1963 leaf spotting of *Feijoa* has been observed and recorded as an undesignated *Cercospora* species, as noted in the plant identification slips of the Plant Pathology Section, Division of Plant Industry. In 1976, Deighton (1) established the genus *Pseudocercospora* which included many species formerly classified in the genus *Cercospora*. El-Gholl and Schubert (2) described the organism from *F. sellowiana* as *P. feijoeae*, a new species within the newly erected *Pseudocercospora*. *P. feijoeae* El-Gholl & Schubert was established as the causal agent of a leaf spot disease of *F. sellowiana*.

SYMPTOMS: Of the leaf-spotting organisms reported on *F. sellowiana* (4), the fungus *Pseudocercospora feijoeae* appears to be the most common in Florida. The leaf spots are first noted on older, fully expanded leaves as brown, subcircular to irregular lesions with a dark brown border (Fig. 1). Upon enlargement, leaf spots coalesce to form large, dark-brown necrotic areas ultimately followed by abscission of the leaves.



Fig. 1. Leaf spots of *Feijoa sellowiana* caused by *Pseudocercospora feijoeae*: A) upper leaf surfaces x 0.9; B) corresponding lower leaf surfaces, x 0.9. (DPI File #87063, Jeffrey W. Lotz).

1 Contribution No. 684, Bureau of Entomology, Nematology, Plant Pathology - Plant Pathology Section.

2 Plant Pathologists, FDACS, Division of Plant Industry, P. O. Box 147100, Gainesville, FL 32614-7100.

3 Emeritus Plant Pathologist (deceased), FDACS, Division of Plant Industry, P. O. Box 147100, Gainesville, FL 32614-7100.

CONTROL: To minimize spread of the pathogen and reduce new leaf infections, thiophanate methyl (applied in accordance with manufacturers' label directions) is recommended for protection (5).

LITERATURE CITED

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